NONPOINT SOURCE TIMES

Volume 12, Issue 4 Fall 2004

Mousam Lake Water Quality Improvement Project
(The Foot gets a Facelift)

Mousam Lake is a heavily developed, 913 acre lake located in the towns of Acton and Shapleigh in York County, Maine. Mousam Lake experiences nonpoint source pollution problems similar to many other lakes in Maine and has shown an overall declining trend in water quality for the past 30 years. The MDEP has placed Mousam Lake on their list of "Lakes Most at Risk from Development", and on their "Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds" list.

The Foot Before

In spring 2002, the York County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCSWCD), then under NPS grant #2000R-40, and theMaine DOT Surface Water Quality Protection Program (SWQPP) joined forces to solve NPS issues at Mousam Lake's public beach. The beach (also known as "The Foot" due to it's relative location on the lake), is owned by the Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA), and is the lake's highest visiblity site at the crossroads of ME Routes 11 and 109 in Shapleigh. Since the Foot is at a low spot in the watershed, it receives heavy amounts of polluted stormwater. It also receives heavy visitation every summer.

Inside This Issue

Phase 1 of the Foot's "facelift", which was completed in September 2003, included constructing a large infiltration trench and planting vegetated buffers along the upper portions of the beach. SWQPP provided the engineering and materials for the project. The work party

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Ready, Set, Dig!

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for Phase 1 consisted of YCSWCD staff, DOT maintenance staff, SWQPP staff, Mousam Lake Youth Conservation Corps staff, and volunteers from Maplestone (a non-profit school in Acton). The project created quite a stir with local folks who were concerned that the beach was being closed to the public. The towns of Acton and Shapleigh, as well as the local newspaper in Sanford, gave the project some great publicity and helped spread the word about NPS pollution and BMPs. People were relieved to learn that not only was the beach staying open, but it's facelift was helping to keep their swimming water clean.

Phase 2 of the project commenced in spring 2004 to repair winter damage to the buffers. The DOT extended the guardrail on Route 11 to re-close the beach to vehicular traffic. The large, central vegetated buffer was redesigned to make it more beach-user friendly, and the side buffers were augmented. Once again, SWQPP provided the materials for the project. A group of York County Master Gardeners volunteered to help out, and after attending a short presentation on vegetated buffers, they were off and digging with YCSWCD staff (now working under NPS grant #2003R-12), SWQPP staff, and MLRA volunteers.

The group experimented with contouring the ground and mulch in the central buffer to capture runoff and direct it to the individual plants. Not only does the finished product look great, but it functions extremely well; the BMPs have held up beautifully to the heavy rainfalls we've received this summer. MLRA volunteers have assumed the responsibilities of watering, weeding, and all other maintenance issues.

Summer Flowers (August 2004).

The towns of Acton and Shapleigh provided more invaluable publicity for Phase 2 of the project. YCSWCD staff has conducted several, informal surveys of Mousam Lake residents and Foot beach-goers, and has found that the majority of the local folks do understand the vegetated buffer concept, and appreciate our efforts to protect water quality.

By : Deborah Kendall, York County Soil & Water Conservation District. For more information contact Deborah at Deborah.Kendall@me.nacdnet.net or York County Soil & Water Conservation District, PO Box 819, Alfred, ME 04002. (207) 324-7015 (office).

Field Stacking of Manure BMP Evaluation

(Editors note: Field Stacking of Manure - BMP Evaluation was performed in partnership by the Androscoggin Valley Soil & Water Conservation District and USDA-NRCS Maine, 1999–2003. Funded in part by MDEP and USEPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.)

Background: Field stacking of animal manure on remote fields and pastures over the winter months is an important Best Management Practice for agriculture in Maine and New England states. In some locations stacking areas need modification to protect surface and ground water from nutrient loading to meet state and federal manure stacking site criteria. The purpose of the project was to: (1) evaluate a practical method to control or reduce leachate and runoff; and, (2) improve the Best Management Practice recommendations for temporary field stacking of manure.

Due to the considerable difficulty and cost to find suitable manure stacking sites, farmers asked DEP and the Maine Department of Agriculture to consider evaluating the effectiveness of a carbon rich pad under winter stockpiled manure as a modification to prepare a stacking site. Quantitative and qualitative data were needed in order to quantify risks and justify this type of site modification. Research was needed to test an affordable and sound method of upgrading storage areas, and help the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service upgrade best management practices for field stacking sites.

"there was no consistent significant reduction in the nitrogen concentration from the sawdust"

Set-up & Results: In response to this request, a study was conducted to evaluate winter movement of nitrogen from stockpiled hen manure on bare soil compared to that from manure stockpiled on a sawdust pad. Control plots contained no sawdust or manure. The two-year study was replicated three times. Core data was collected in the spring during manure spreading. Soil samples were taken at two depths (0-10 inches and at 10-22 inches) under the piles, and at a distance of 10 feet from the manure to either side of the pile. Here are the findings:

- Nitrogen concentrations in the control plots remained consistently low for both years.
- Nitrogen concentrations in the soils beneath the treatment plots were significantly higher than beneath control plots in both years of the study, suggesting that restrictions on winter stacking based on soil and site criteria are appropriate.
- Over the two-year period, there was no consistent significant reduction in the nitrogen concentration from the sawdust pad. Therefore, without further study, the practice of using a carbon rich pad as implemented in this study cannot be recommended as a best management practice for water quality protection..
- Runoff sites showed significantly lower nitrogen concentrations than under the piles for both treatments throughout the study period. Additional study of run-off characteristics of stockpiled manure is merited to determine whether setback requirements from surface water may be reduced.

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Implications for future work: The results of this evaluation poses questions and possibilities for further work. The idea of some type of carbon rich pad being used to mitigate an unsuitable stacking site is still an interesting one to many scientists and agencies. Some have suggested testing a thicker and/or compacted sawdust pad, a more absorbent carbon material (shredded paper, short fiber residual), or a biologically active material such as compost or used bedding. Perhaps mixing the high carbon material with the manure would be more effective in tying up moisture and nutrients in the manure. Chicken manure has a relatively high concentration of available nitrogen. This practice might work sufficiently well with other types of manure. Researchers in Connecticut are finding encouraging preliminary results using combinations of compost and leaves as pads and covers for stockpiled dairy manure.

For more information contact Art McLauglin at MDEP 287-7739 or Arthur.T.McLauglin@maine.gov—the project sponsor is Phoebe Hardesty Androscogin Valley SWCD who can be reached at 753-9400.

Street Edge Alternatives (SEA Streets) Project

Seattle's pilot Street Edge Alternatives Project (SEA Streets) is designed to provide drainage that more closely mimics the natural landscape prior to development than traditional piped systems.

To accomplish this, they reduced impervious surfaces to 11% less than a traditional street, provided surface detention in swales, and added over 100 evergreen trees and 1100 shrubs.

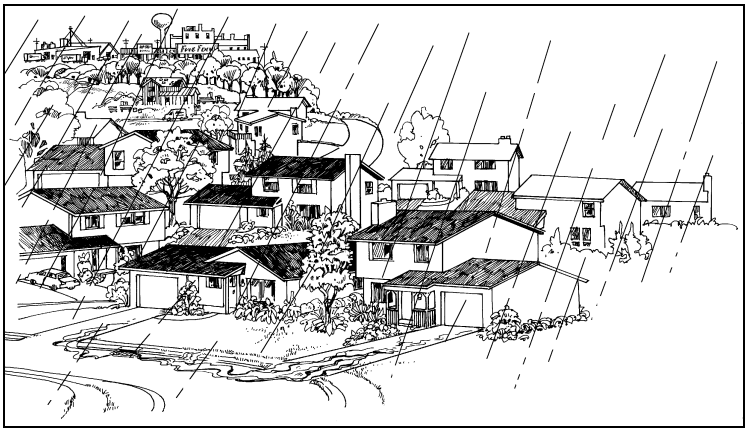
Two years of monitoring show that SEA Street has reduced the total volume of stormwater leaving the street by 98% for a 2-year storm event.

FMI http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Drainage_&_Sewer_System/Natural_Drainage_Systems/Street_Edge_Alternatives/index.asp or contact Mara Rogers at mara.rogers@seattle.gov

New EPA Smart Growth Resource

EPA has released a new report that will help communities protect water resources and achieve smart growth. Some of the adverse effects of growth and development include: loss of woodlands, meadowlands, and wetlands, and increased polluted run-off. Smart growth is development that is good for the economy, public health and the environment. The report documents 75 innovative approaches -- including redeveloping abandoned properties, encouraging rooftop gardens, creating shared parking, and promoting tree planting -- that state and local governments and water quality professionals can use to achieve their smart growth and water quality goals. To receive a free copy of Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth, send an email to: ncepimal@one.net or call 1-800-490-9198 and request EPA publication 231-R-04-002. The report and more information about smart growth are also available at: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth.

U.S. Streets, Parking Lots & Buildings would Cover Ohio!



BOULDER, Colorado, June 15, 2004 (ENS) - The combined size of all highways, streets, buildings, parking lots and other solid structures within the lower 48 states and the District of Columbia is some 43,480 square miles, roughly the size of the state of Ohio. The finding comes from a study by Christopher Elvidge of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, who along with colleagues from several universities and agencies produced the first national map and inventory of impervious surface areas in the United States.

The study appears in the June 15 issue of "Eos," which is published by the American Geophysical Union.

The researchers note the new map is important because impervious surface areas affect the environment.

The qualities of impervious materials that make them ideal for construction also reduce heat transfer from Earth's surface to the atmosphere, creating urban heat islands. In addition, the replacement of heavily vegetated areas by impervious surface areas reduces sequestration of carbon, which plants absorb from the atmosphere. Both effects can play a role in climate change.

Within watersheds, impervious surface areas alter the shape of stream channels, raise the water temperature, and sweep urban debris and pollutants into aquatic environments. These effects are measurable once 10 percent of a watershed's surface area is covered by impervious surface areas, Elvidge says. An increase in impervious surfaces means fewer fish and fewer species of fish and aquatic insects, as well as a general degradation of wetlands and river valleys.

The researchers found the impervious surface area of the Lower 48 states is already slightly larger than that of its wetlands, which cover 38,020 square miles.

Elvidge notes that few areas have impervious surface area maps, because they are difficult and expensive to create.

He used a variety of data sources to produce the map accompanying his article, including nighttime lights observed by satellite, Landsat images, and data on roads from the U.S. Census Bureau, along with aerial photography.

The map should provide a useful benchmark to track the growth of impervious surface areas, in particular because the U.S. population is increasing by some three million people each year. In addition, roughly one million new single family homes and 10,000 miles of new roads are added annually.

Worms in Our Sewers?

Worms in Our Sewers? New Book Tackles the Mystery.

In Beneath the City of Ooze, a brand-new kids' book from University of Illinois Extension, the Secret Agent Worms enter a storm sewer and explore the movement of polluted run-off into lakes and rivers--a hot issue in urban areas today.

This full-color, 36-page tale features the wacky antics of Secret Agent Worms Napoleon Soil (Agent 001) and Jane Blonde (Agent 009), who work for the top-secret organization known as E.A.R.T.H.--Espionage Agents with Really Terrific Hair. But unfortunately, they are not the brightest worms on the planet, said Doug Peterson, co-writer of the new book and a regular writer for VeggieTales books.

Napoleon and Jane are convinced that evil agents from M.U.D. (Mean and Unfriendly Doofuses) are polluting the lake using an army of robots hidden in the sewers. So they go off in search of the robots, along with their much wiser grandfather.

"The grandfather is the voice of reason," Peterson explained. "It's through the grandfather that readers learn how storm sewers can transport polluted run-off straight to lakes and rivers."

Beneath the City of Ooze is written at a fourth-grade reading level and was funded by the Illinois EPA through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. It is the follow-up to the award-winning book, The Disappearing Earth, which dealt with the issue of soil erosion.

Individual copies of Beneath the City of Ooze cost $7 apiece, with a discount for sets of 10. Supporting materials include a teacher's packet, which sells for $40, and a science kit, available for $210. The science kit includes the teacher's packet plus all of the supplies necessary to create a tabletop City of Ooze, which can be used to demonstrate how storm sewers work.

To order copies, call the toll-free number (800) 345-6087. You can also order Secret Agent Worm materials online by visiting U of I Extension's Publications Plus website at www.publicationsplus.uiuc.edu.

Stormwater Compliance Assistance Tool Kit

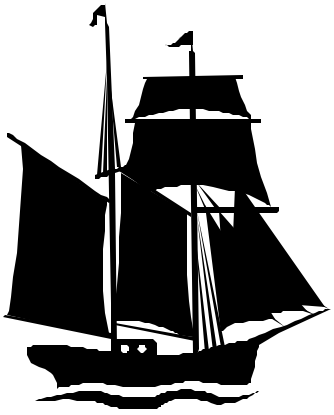
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has released two new guides on construction site erosion control.

The first, "Stormwater Compliance Assistance Tool Kit for Small Construction Operators", was developed to assist construction operators disturbing less than 5 acres in complying with the State's Construction General Permit and developing stormwater pollution prevention plans. It covers permit requirements, SWPPP development, common BMPs, and maintenance. It also includes a SWPPP template to help construction operators address all the required elements that are supposed to be included in the SWPPP.

The second guide, "Stormwater Construction Inspection Guide", is targeted to State and local construction inspectors responsible for conducting stormwater inspections at construction sites. The guide walks an inspector through the inspection process, from pre-inspection preparation to exit interview. It also includes guidance on how to conduct an on-site inspection and provides tips on inspecting common BMPs.

Both are available in PDF from: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html

Maine Clean Marina Program expands



The Maine Coastal Program is coordinating with the Maine Marine Trade Association to expand the Maine Clean Boatyard and Marina Program, which began as a pilot in Casco Bay, and is now moving up the coast, covering mid-coast, from Cape Small to Mount Desert Island. MMTA has been successful in growing the program due to its link to the marina and boatyard industry and its nonregulatory nature. It convinced businesses that maintaining a clean marina or boatyard is not only good for the environment, it is good for business. To support the expansion, Governor Baldacci will sign a Maine Marina Day Proclamation on August 11, 2004.

Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program Timeline and Update:

Late 2003 - partners create and begin implementation of program strategic plan

Fall 2003 - Marina and boatyard operators stakeholders' group makes suggestion to DEP on their *Brightwork – A Best Management Practices Manual for Maine's Boatyards and Marinas*. The BMPs provide the basis for the clean marinas program.

Early 2004 – An advisory committee, including representatives from several state agencies (SPO, DEP, DMR), boatyard industry (10 at last count), and other organizations such as the Ocean Conservancy, Maine Sea Grant, and Small Business Development Center at Costal Enterprises, Inc., reviews Casco Bay pilot project and updates materials.

June 10, 2004 - first two facilities in expansion area (Boothbay Region Boatyard in West Southport and Wayfarer Marine in Camden) receive certification as clean marinas. Both facilities are large coastal operations located in residential neighborhoods. Both perform a multitude of functions including major repair work, restoration and some construction in addition to routine maintenance and marina operations.

July 8, 2004 first Maine lake-front facility certified as clean marina, Panther Run Marina on Sebago Lake in Raymond. In a very unique partnership, the clean marina program is being delivered to marinas at Sebago Lake by the Portland Water District.

Late July 2004 - Two boatyards on Mount Desert Island (Morris Yachts in Bass Harbor and Wilbur Yachts in Southwest Harbor) will be certified.

August 11, 2004 - Gov. Baldacci will sign a Maine Marina Day Proclamation.

The Clean Boatyard and Marina Program is part of the Maine Coastal Program and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program five-year plan funded by National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). CONTACT: Todd Janeski at SPO at 287-1482 or todd.janeski@maine.gov

Check out Wisconsin's Lake Web pages - a great reference resource
http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides/

MFS's revised Forestry BMP Manual

The Maine Forest Service has completed a major revision of its BMP manual, with the publication of Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting Maine's Water Quality. The manual was developed by the MFS's Division of Forest Policy and Management, with substantial assistance from FORAT, an advisory group with broad representation from Maine's forestry community.

The manual replaces the existing field handbook on BMPs, and provides considerably more information, photos, and illustrations. The content is organized to include important background on water quality, water movement in watersheds, and to emphasize principles underlying the application of on the ground measures to protect water quality. BMPs involve a wide range of ideas and possible techniques. The manual is intended to help loggers, foresters, and others understand how different BMPs work, and help them decide which techniques to use. However, it does not describe regulatory requirements, nor is it a cookbook or a complete how-to manual for installing BMPs. It is important to understand that BMPs are not regulations. The manual focuses on water quality. Although there are other benefits from using BMPs, the emphasis is on water quality, broadly defined as the properties of water in nature that support life. BMPs protect the natural functions of water bodies, by:

minimizing the risk of sediment and other pollutants getting into water bodies,
maintaining the natural flow of water in streams and wetlands, and
protecting shoreland vegetation and its important functions.

"Fundamental BMPs" are the basic principles or goals that underlie most BMPs. Understanding these principles will enable loggers and foresters to select or adapt the BMPs that are most appropriate and effective. Fundamental BMPs to protect water quality include:

defining objectives and responsibilities for the harvest
Pre-harvest planning
Anticipating site conditions
Controlling water flow
Minimizing and stabilizing exposed soil
Protecting the integrity of water bodies
Handling hazardous materials safely.

The manual states the MFS approach to BMPs succinctly: "Any single practice or combination of practices that effectively achieves one or more of these key goals could be considered an appropriate BMP." The manual also describes BMPs for every stage of the harvest, including stream crossings, wetland crossings, truck roads, log landings, trails and harvesting, and hazardous materials. Each of these areas is dealt with from the perspectives of highest priorities in these areas, as well as specific planning, construction/installation, maintenance, and close-out BMPs. Special sections provide information on filter areas adjacent to water bodies , soil stabilization, sizing and installing bridges and culverts, maintaining fish passage, and controlling/diverting water on roads and trails. MFS is planning several introductory workshops this spring. Please check with MFS's Augusta office or your district forester. Individual copies of the manual will be available after May 15th, and the manual will be posted to MFS's website. Individual copies will be free to foresters, loggers, and forest landowners; requests for multiple copies/large quantities may involve a modest cost.

The manual can be found at http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/pubs/bmp_manual.htm

FIRST YOUTH GROUNDWATER CONGRESS

Press release

LINCOLN, Nebraska – The Groundwater Foundation is launching a Youth Groundwater Congress (Congress) in Washington, D.C., November 3-5, 2004, in conjunction with the Foundation's Annual Conference. The Congress will provide a forum to increase youth leadership and involvement in groundwater protection and conservation.

Congress Delegates will participate in a series of hands-on workshops and creative learning experiences designed to: increase their understanding of water issues and the connection to public health; provide a forum to build relationships with peers, mentors and water professionals; develop the capacity to become thoughtful and informed leaders; and sharpen skills such as public speaking, writing and problem solving. In addition, Congress Delegates will have the opportunity to participate in a Congressional panel to discuss groundwater and public health issues.
Youth ages 10-17 from throughout the United States who are interested in groundwater and water-related issues are eligible to apply for the Congress. All Congress Delegates will be required to be accompanied by an adult. Youth interested in attending the Congress will need to complete an application and submit a 500-1,000 word essay. Applicants will also be required to include a letter of recommendation from a teacher, scout leader, or community member. Applications are due to The Groundwater Foundation by September 17, 2004.

The Groundwater Foundation will offer limited travel scholarships for Congress Delegates based on need. For more information about the Youth Groundwater Congress or for an application, please call 1-800-858-4844 or email Sharon@groundwater.org.

The Groundwater Foundation
5561 S. 48th Street, Suite 215, Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone: 402.434.2740 FAX: 402.434.2742

Help with Sprawl

The Vermont Forum on Sprawl now offers an online community planning tool that offers communities and citizens strategies, case studies, tutorials and examples of how to achieve smart growth and to arrest sprawl. The tool asks questions on various related topics and generates resources catered to specific needs. The tool will allow users to learn what other towns are doing to improve their town centers, citizen involvement strategies and ways to provide more housing choices.

FMI http://www.surveycafe.com/VtForum/entry.asp

Water Study Yields Few Surprises for New England

(From the U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey Release Date: July 8, 2004. Contact: Keith Robinson 603 226-7809 kwrobins@usgs.gov or Debra Foster 603-226-7837 dhfoster@usgs.gov)

New England's legacy of urban and industrial activities, together with recent development in forested areas, has affected the quality of rivers and ground water in cities and rural areas. The impact is reflected more quickly than expected as development begins to take hold. These are a few of the findings the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) announced today that are part of the USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program study of the 23,000 square mile New England Coastal Basins during 1999-2001. The area includes western Maine, Eastern New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and most of Rhode Island.

Elevated levels of arsenic, mercury, zinc, lead, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were apparent in river sediments in highly urbanized areas, such as Boston, Mass. And Providence RI. All of these contaminants were detected at concentrations exceeding guidelines for the protection of aquatic life. Levels of organic compounds, such as the gasoline additive MTBE and solvents used in industrial cleaners, were below drinking water standards and guidelines, but were still frequently found in ground waters used for drinking.

Major Findings on River Quality and Ecosystems

"We were surprised to find that the quality of streams begin to degrade earlier than we thought as watersheds develop. Because of this finding, stream protection measures need to be in place even in the more rural areas of New England where development is beginning to occur" said Keith Robinson, USGS Hydrologist and principal investigator of the study. Study results indicated that:

- Streams draining rural watersheds with as little as 3-5 percent urban lands showed signs of degradation such as the reduction in populations of pollutant-sensitive insects and fish. Some of the watersheds studied with only 20 percent urban lands had severe degradation of aquatic life.
- Although the highest mercury levels in sediments were in urban settings, the fish surveyed from urban waters contained less mercury. Surprisingly, fish found in streams draining more forested and wetland-rich watersheds in the outlying suburban areas had the highest levels of mercury accumulated in their bodies. Because recreational fisherman tend to fish in these more rural streams, it is important for people to become aware of any fish consumption advisories prior to eating fish from these streams.

Major Findings in Ground Water

In addition to natural contaminants in ground water, many manmade contaminants, such as the gasoline additive MTBE, routinely were found in ground waters used for drinking.

- In the area of Eastern New England studied, nearly one in five household wells drilled into bedrock contained arsenic above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) standard of 10 micrograms per liter for public drinking water. Increasing numbers of bedrock wells are being drilled to

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supply household and public water supplies.

- Ground waters of the area also contain high amounts of radon. All but one of the nearly 120 wells sampled in the area had radon levels that exceeded the proposed USEPA drinking-water standard of 300 picocuries per liter.
- The gasoline additive MTBE and chloroform, a chemical that forms from the chlorination of drinking water, were found in most well water samples. These chemicals were much more common in wells in eastern New England than in wells sampled in other parts of the country. This is likely due to the extensive use of MTBE in gasoline and chlorination of city water supplies in this region.

"These results indicate the need for regular testing of ground water supplies, especially those from private water wells used by individual homes, since these contaminants were often found," said Robinson.

The USGS assessment is part of a national program currently releasing results on streams and ground water in 14 additional major river basins and aquifer systems. Findings of regional and national interest are highlighted in a separate report "Water Quality in the Nation's Streams and Aquifers--Overview of Selected Findings, 1991-2001." Check the status and availability of these reports on the NAWQA Web site, http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/ as well as accessibility to other publications and national data sets and maps.

Copies of the USGS report, "Water Quality in the New England Coastal Basins," published as USGS Circular 1226, are available at no cost by writing the USGS Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225 (or by calling 1-888-ask-usgs). The report also can be accessed on the World Wide Web at http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa_sumr.html

How to Form a Road Association

A Guide to Forming Road Associations - It is finally here, one of the most asked about documents in recent history! At least in our water quality, lake association circle…

This manual is intended as a resource for private road residents who would like to improve the planning for and implementation of successful road maintenance programs. Forming a road association can provide a way for road users to formally manage their roads in an organized and economical manner while also protecting lake and pond water quality.

Establishing a road association can:

- Help to open the lines of communication among community members;
- Provide a framework for centralized decision-making;
- Improve planning for and implementation of road maintenance;
- Legitimize the collection of road dues;
- Set up an impartial and efficient means for managing money; and
- Establish legal authority and potentially avoid personal liability.

Road associations can be loosely formed or highly organized. Generally, the more organized the association, the easier it is to maintain the road and share the cost.

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The guide will help you find answers to this list of questions:

- What are the benefits of a road association?
- What background information do you need?
- What are the legal issues?
- How will the road association be governed?
- How will you provide for road maintenance?
- How will you implement your maintenance plan?

To receive this useful guide see your local Soil and Water Conservation District or you can call the Maine DEP 1-800-452-1942. On the Maine DEP website: http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm

Also included in this manual is a computer cd which has all of the legal forms, samples of: road maintenance agreement form, articles for incorporating, drainage easement and more.

Tripp Lake Watershed management Plan

The Tripp Lake Watershed Management Plan: An Approach to Conserving a Community Treasure

A committee of dedicated individuals has produced a first-rate management plan for Tripp Lake in Poland, ME. Members of the Tripp Lake Improvement Association, as well as the town's code enforcement officer, the business manager of Tripp Lake Camps, and Ferg Lea of AVCOG volunteered many hours to bring this plan to completion. Phoebe Hardesty of Androscoggin Valley SWCD and Jessie Mae MacDougall of MDEP provided project guidance. The committee was especially grateful for the creativity and dedication of Roberta Hill, Lake & Watershed Resource Management Associates, who wrote the plan.

The plan is the culmination of a painstaking research and planning process aimed at developing a long-term strategy for protecting Tripp Lake, one of our region's greatest natural assets. Public meetings were held, and surveys and questionnaires distributed; community responses were sensible and insightful. The strong response from community members means that a plan has been created which will encourage wide public participation in its implementation, and which can be readily converted into meaningful action.

The informational sections provide useful and engaging background about Tripp Lake and its watershed, including cultural and historical information, existing and potential threats to the lake, and the systems already in place to protect it. The Action Plan merges the community's concerns about the lake with ideas on how to address them. The plan is presented in an organized way that will help to provide direction for implementation of the recommended actions.

The plan also includes natural resource information, local ordinances and state laws of importance to the watershed, Poland land use zoning districts, lake protection resources, information on local population growth, a phosphorus "build-out" scenario, and beautiful maps.

The Tripp Lake Watershed Management Plan will be introduced to the public on September 11th during Poland Community Day. This is one watershed plan that will *not* gather dust on the shelf! Contact Androscoggin Valley Conservation District at (207) 753-9400, ext. 400 for more information.

Funding for this project was provided by a CWA 319 grant and contributions from the Tripp Lake Improvement Association.

Calendar of Events

September 12-15, 2004. Self-Sustaining Solutions for Streams, Wetlands, and Watersheds. Radisson Riverfront Hotel St. Paul, Minnesota. FMI http://www.asae.org/meetings/streams2004/index.html

September 21-23, 2004. Low Impact Development Conference. Metro Washington Council Of Governments is assisting Prince George's County and the Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance (AWTA) with hosting the first national conference on Low Impact Development under a grant from the U.S. EPA. FMI http://www.mwcog.org/environment/LIDconference/

October 12, 2004. Northern Maine Children's Water Festival. FMI contact Barb Welch at MDEP 207-287-7682.

October 14, 2003. The Blane House Conference on Volunteerism. Augusta Civic Center. FMI www.VolunteerMaine.org

October 28 - 31, 2004. Land Trust Alliance Rally 2004. Providence, Rhode Island. FMI http://www.lta.org/training/index.html

November 19, 2004. Annual Smart Growth Summit. Augusta Civic Center. FMI http://www.growsmartmaine.org/Summit.htm

April 17 – 20, 2005. 2005 Groundwater Summit. San Antonio, Texas. FMI http://www.ngwa.org/e/conf/0504175095.shtml

Resources Available

Proceedings of "3rd National Conference on Nonpoint Source Pollution Information & Education Programs (in Adobe Acrobat format) on EPA's Web site. Visit http://www.epa.gov/nps/proceedings2003npsconf.pdf

USRM Manual 8: Pollution Prevention Practices. details several methods for assessing sub-watershed pollution sources and targeting education/enforcement efforts to reduce these pollutants. The manual outlines more than 100 different "carrots" and "sticks" for changing polluting behaviors, and includes profile sheets detailing 21 specific stewardship practices for residential neighborhoods and 15 pollution prevention techniques for storm water hotspots. From Center for Watershed Protection FMI http://www.cwp.org/

BMPs for Forestry: Protecting Maines Water Quality (2004) 92 pages. A publication of Maine DOC. It can be found at http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/pubs/bmp_manual.htm

A Guide to Forming Road Associations. July 2004. Maine DEP 1-800-452-1942. On the Maine DEP website: http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm

This newsletter is prepared especially of those involved in nonpoint source pollution issues. It is funded through an EPA 319 Clean Water Act Grant. If you have any announcements, comments or items for the Nonpoint Source Times, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please call or write:
Kathy Hoppe, Maine DEP, 1235 Central Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769. phone: 207/764-0477. fax: 207/764-1507. kathy.m.hoppe@maine.gov

Maine Dept. of Agriculture to Survey Best Management Practices Around the State

The Maine Department of Agriculture has contracted with New England Planning Concepts, a Falmouth-based land use planning consulting firm, to conduct a survey of Maine farms to determine the quantity and the quality of Best Management Practice (BMP) usage by Maine agriculture. The survey will be conducted throughout the summer and will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of BMP usage in protecting waterways from agricultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

This survey is part of an ongoing effort by the Maine Department of Agriculture to help support and advise farmers about ways to minimize nonpoint source pollution. The survey is designed to meet state and federal requirements to periodically evaluate NPS pollution in order to continue to qualify for federal funding under the Clean Water Act.

Dairy and potato farms in the state of Maine will be randomly selected for inclusion in the survey and participation will be on a voluntary basis. Trained evaluators will visit farms and meet with farmers who choose to participate. Identification of individual farms and farmers will be kept confidential and data will be combined so that survey data cannot be attributed to a particular farm or farmer. Information collected will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of state programs to reduce NPS pollution.

For more information about participating in the survey, farmers may call New England Planning Concepts at 207-781-0909.

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